

Assistant Director for Special Operations

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Communications from the FBID Mediterranean Bureau, Kyrenia, Cyprus

1. The Foreign Broadcast Information Service-British Broadcasting Corporation Reciprocal Arrangement, originally entered into in 1947 and actually fully implemented since early 1949, provides in part that the BBC assumes the cost of transmitting a maximum average of 10,000 word groups per day of selected material from the Cables and Wireless terminal on Cyprus to London where it is used by the BBC as well as transmitted via other telegraphic facilities to the FBID departmental offices in Washington. This arrangement may be terminated by either organization by giving 90 days' notice.

2. The Head of the BBC Monitoring Service in a "personal and unofficial" letter dated 1 November 1949 to Chief, FBID, indicated that it is unlikely that the BBC will continue to pay for the Cyprus to London transmission after the end of the current fiscal year about 1 April 1950. It is assumed that the formal 90 days' notice to this effect will be forthcoming.

3. If the full potential of the Cyprus station is to be exploited it is urgent that:

a. Telegraphic transmission to Washington of 10,000 word groups daily be continued and if at all possible that the volume be increased to 20,000 groups daily.

b. Positive steps be taken at a very early date to provide for use of other telegraphic facilities from Cyprus to Washington or to provide for funds to handle the Cyprus-London transmission via commercial facilities as at present.

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